

Nov 22, 1947

Louisville Chapter

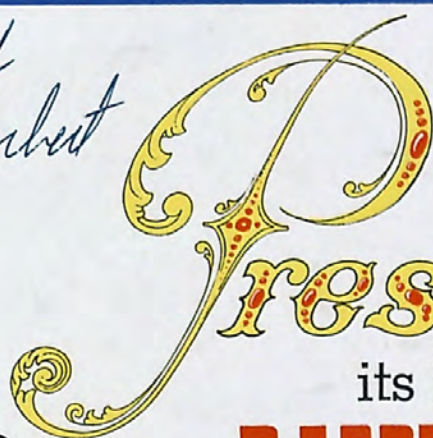


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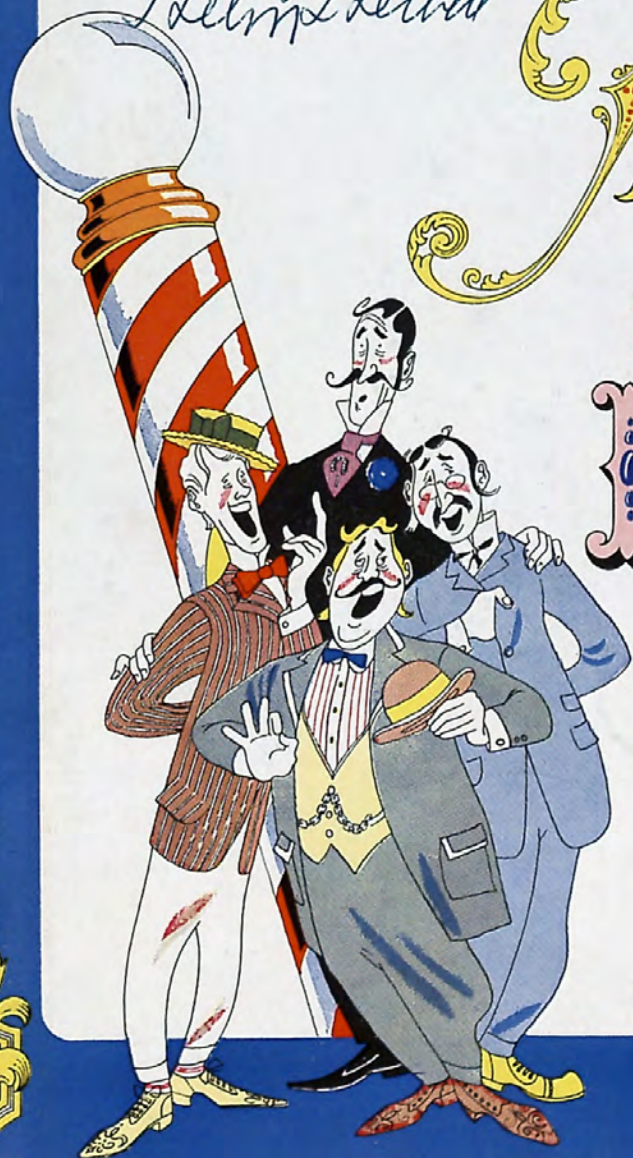
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Helm Herbert, Tenor

Jack Byrne, Baritone
Ray Graft, Bass

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PROGRAM

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CODE OF ETHICS

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF BARBER SHOP
QUARTET SINGING IN AMERICA, INCORPORATED

LOUISVILLE CHAPTER, KENTUCKY No. 1

We, as members of the Society, do hereby subscribe to the principles of our organization as embodied in its illustrious name and title, and do solemnly pledge ourselves to abide by this Code of Ethics in all of its precepts.

1. We recognize the inalienable right of men to seek a haven from burdensome daily stresses and care through the medium of old-fashioned vocal quartet harmony.
2. We shall always venerate and honor barber-shop harmony as an American institution worthy of perpetuation.
3. We shall deport ourselves and conduct our functions in a manner which will at all times reflect credit upon the Society.
4. Our activities in all respects shall conform to the Constitution of the Society and to the rules established by the National Board of Directors.
5. We shall strive to attend all Chapter meetings and these shall be held at least once each month.
6. We shall resist the application of any constraining methods of procedure in the conduct of the business affairs of the Society, and shall prohibit the introduction of all matters pertaining to politics or to any other extraneous controversial issues.
7. We shall not permit or tolerate the commercialization of the Society in any manner whatsoever.
8. We shall solicit for membership in the Society only congenial men of good character who possess an inherent love of harmony and/or do desire to harmonize.
9. We shall refrain from foisting our songs upon unsympathetic ears and shall always be guided by a rational spirit of good fellowship.
10. We shall do everything in our power to "Harmonize America" by stimulating, through the medium of good singing, a proper spirit and morale among the men in the armed forces and the people of our great Nation.
11. We shall use our gift of barber-shop harmony as a means of rendering altruistic service in and to our communities.
12. We shall help the Society to be worthy of praise and praise it for all it is worth.

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PROGRAM 9 CONTINUED

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THE MIS-FITS

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Pete Buckley, Bass

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WHAT IS BARBERSHOPPING?

BY P. W. JACKSON

In music, as in other things, there are as many forms of expression and nuances of meaning as there are participants therein. Music has been in every land and language since the beginning of man. It is the vibrant, essentially natural voice of every emotion, every feeling and depth of sensory perception to which we humans are subject. There have been, in music, all classes and types. Epic music, operatic tomes, light and scintillating dance music, folk tunes, national characterizations with accompanying instrumental identities, and pure vocal exuberances . . . all these, and countless others, have been a part of music for centuries. Music has helped to shape the destinies of men and nations, of every land and every people — there have been, in history, no exceptions.

In America, back in the sporadic, ebullient but colorful and tradition-packed 1890's, a distinctive form of music was tremendously in vogue. Tonic and satisfying, it was as American as apple pie, and it was heard — to the great benefit of its listeners — everywhere. It belonged to that gay era of horse-hair sofas, plush parlors and fringed-top surreys. It was a national habit, and a healthy one. It was Barber Shop Quartet Harmony. Despite its name — the exact origin of which is still somewhat obscure — it was not confined to the ornate tonsorial establishments of that period. It could be heard, the length and breadth of the land, on street corners under gas-lit lamps and in drawing rooms and billiard parlors — anywhere that musical or vocal males would gather. Neither urban or rural, it was universal. It had no geography. Then, in the crowded, breathless progress that came with the early 1900's, this deeply satisfying and really great American mode of melodic expression became less and less in evidence.

This unhappy state of affairs continued, more or less generally until, in 1938, an inspired attorney, O. C. Cash, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, invited a few friends to his home, one memorable evening, to sing! They met, they sang, and they loved it. This portentous gathering marked the birth of what is now known by the altogether imposing title of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Incorporated. It has grown, as any such genuinely good thing must grow, until, now only in its ninth year of established being, the Society numbers some 380 individual chapters, with a national membership of more than 20,000 enthusiastic proponents of this truly American brand of vocal legerdemain.

The revival of barber shop quartet harmony has immeasurably improved it, of course. It is, today, an exact science and has all the perfection that any form of musical expression deserves, plus the natural robustness that so particularly distinguishes it and is so purely its own. It is still growing and will continue to grow. Because it is, at once, the medium of tonal expression and emotional outlet of so many thousands of American men from every conceivable walk of life. Architects to zoologists, short men, fat

men, tall and lank, old and young, rich and poor alike — they are, every one of them — barbershoppers. They all wear the same camaraderie and share the same fellowship that every member of this distinctive Society enjoys. There is not — nor can there be — any more truly democratic organization anywhere in the world. It knows no religion, no creed, no politics — it has no social strata and practices no prejudice nor discrimination. Its only qualifications are the elemental requirements of character, a pair of lungs and the desire to sing. It is, of course, a man's organization — a tradition that has held since its inception. The ladies, bless their hearts, have tried to assemble the equivalent of an auxiliary organization several times. They've almost succeeded on occasion but, thus far, the national Society remains an all-male aggregation. There are, it is true, several feminine quartets throughout the country who sing barber shop songs in feminine harmony. We've been fortunate enough, in fact, to have presented on this program two of these — an all-feminine quartet from Sheboygan, Wisconsin, the Chordettes, and a three-girl and one-man quartet from right here in Louisville, the Kentucky Chordinals. They are outstanding and they do a swell job. We like 'em. They enthrall us. They appeal to us, as barbershoppers — but they still can't come to our meetings.

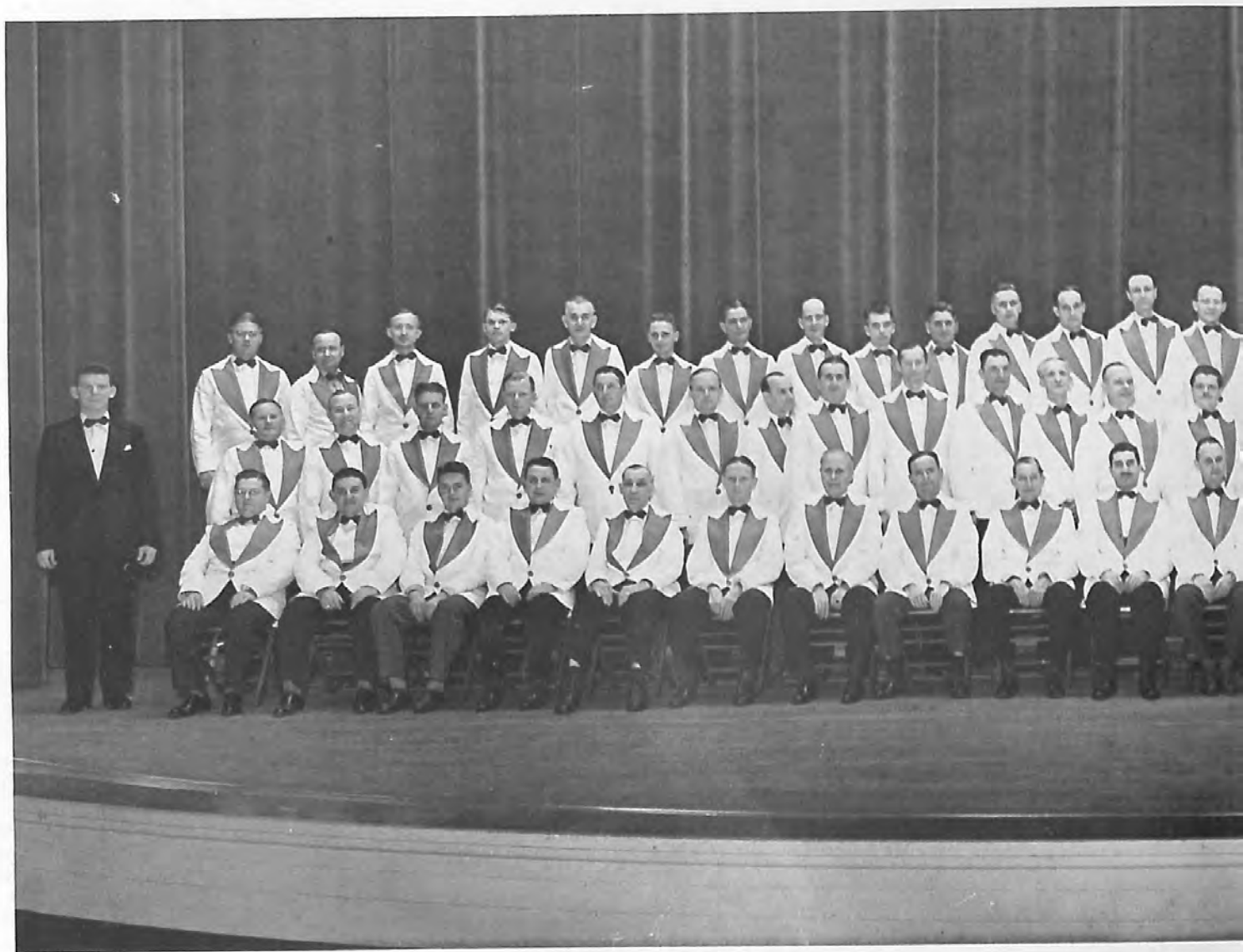
Louisville has had, in the last two years, one of the most significant demonstrations of the phenomenal growth of barbershopping that has been noted anywhere in the country. In July, 1945, a group of friends assembled at the home of F. W. Drybrough. It was a similar gathering to that in Tulsa, seven years earlier. For, by the end of the afternoon, the Louisville Chapter of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. was in existence with 33 charter members, the first such chapter in Kentucky. From this beginning, the chapter has gone through its second year with 256 members! It is now the fourth largest in the country, and a potent factor in the lives of its ardent membership. Each of its meetings, on the first and third Mondays of every month, attracts many visitors, most of whom return another time to become members. Barbershopping has a contagious appeal. The Louisville Chapter chorus, of nearly 100 male voices, is among the finest anywhere. It has fostered and developed many outstanding quartets, among which the Kentucky Troubadors have been pre-eminent and are the present Kentucky champions. The enthusiasm and devotion of the membership of the Louisville Chapter are a splendid tribute to the leadership of its officers and directors and a fitting testimonial to the genius and ability of its musical director, Bob Ising. They are, too, true manifestations of the spirit of Barber Shop Harmony and everything that the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. stands for.

Louisville has become, very generously, "Barber Shop" conscious and we, of the Louisville Chapter, unite in expressing our deep appreciation for your whole-hearted approbation and support. Thank you for coming. It was grand having you and a real pleasure to sing for you.

The Program Committee wishes to thank each of the advertisers who made this Souvenir Program possible. Your support and cooperation is appreciated by every member of the Louisville Chapter of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

P. WAYNE JACKSON,
Chairman Program Committee

CHORUS OF THE LOUISVILLE



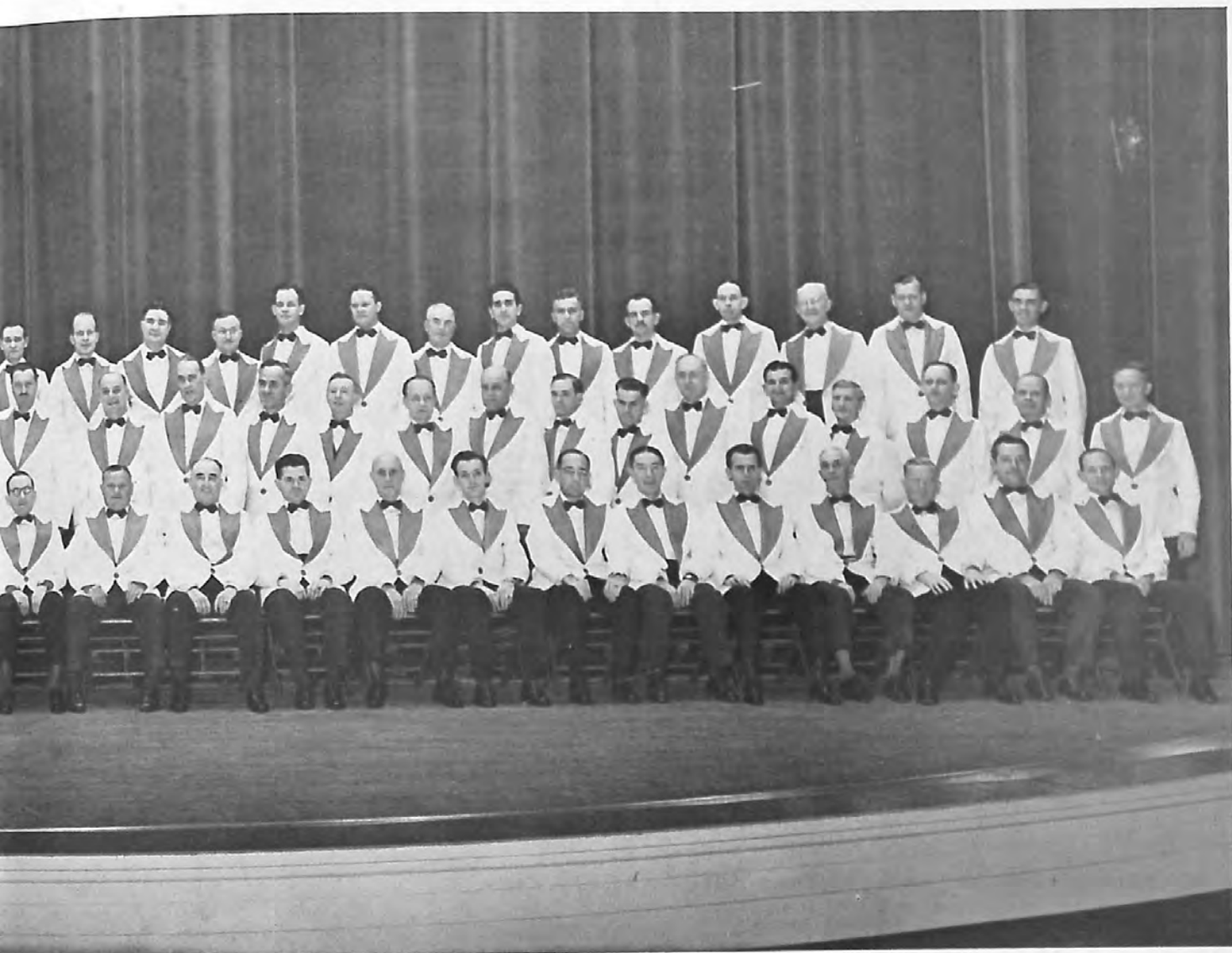
First row, left to right:—Bob Ising, Director, J. Whallen Kelly, Helm Herbert, John L. Nelson, Pat Dunlevy, J. W. Moser, C. A. Gage, Larry E. Morier, William H. Day, J. C. "Pete" Dyer, O. Barney Barnette, Henry C. Weber, Dr. E. C. Stivers, Dr. H. R. Wilber, Jack Byrne, Amzie Leffler, Albert J. Gans, Paul E. Ditto, Wm. K. Gregory, Geo. R. Ewald, H. B. Borders, Walter S. Heazlitt, Wm. Price, J. F. Donaldson, Raymond B. Graft.

Second row, left to right:—John F. Hagner, Cliff Hurst, Leslie Smith, Ralph K. Berg, F. W. Drybrough, F. A. Haynes, Leroy Hobb, Carl Oglesby, Edward O. Nobbe, W. C. Caldwell, William Doyle, Arthur J. Newman, G. F. "Red" Bauer, R. C. Riebel, Leonard A. Zaepfel, H. Everett Hopkins, B. E. Bohnert, Will Bache, E. Floyd

THE FOLLOWING REGULAR MEMBERS OF THE LOUISVILLE CHAPTER CHORUS WERE UNABLE TO BE PRESENT

Carl Berg, Joe Binford, Dick Borntraeger, Ed Campbell, John E. Chumbley, Jr., Syl Connel, Bill Culbertson, Kearne Matt Hillerich, Jasper Hodson, Lovell Humphrey, Evans Hunt, P. Wayne Jackson, Bill Knapp, Frank Lynn, James Me Tilmes, Owen Voyles, Lindsay Ware, Harry Weaver.

CHAPTER S. P. E. B. S. Q. S. A.



Smith, Kean Irwin, R. C. Heazlitt, John S. Hughes, Arden E. Hardgrove, Ray Marrilla, John S. Pape, H. Stanley Smith, Rudy A. Striepe, John F. Lukemeier.

Third row, left to right:—Bill Bond, Bert Harmon, Lee Dentinger, Pat Stivers, Harvey Wathen, Chesney Davis, Al. H. Gerber, George P. Beam, Ed. J. Ising, Ed. Mall, T. Dufficy Walker, Dr. M. G. Gilmore, Elmer H. Dille, Loehle B. Gast, Ray J. Hartman, W. B. Thurman, Geo. Merrifield, Hurley D. Conrad, Martin R. Ayers, Carl J. Narz, S. B. Merrifield, Earl Eadens, Robert B. Sample, O. A. Knight, C. C. McGuire, James P. Haynes, Merle E. Robertson, Fred Kimmel, Jr.

AT THE TIME THAT THE ABOVE PICTURE WAS TAKEN:

Dennison, Charles Doll, Lloyd Durham, Terah Easley, Cliff Eblen, Ben Ewton, Irvin Filmer, O. P. Hartman, Dan Henley, V. I. Murphy, Bill Robertson, Fred Rush, Fred Schanz, Ray Schmidt, Ray Smith, Keith Spears, Dell Thompson, Carl

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The Story of the Beginning of Louisville Chapter

The Louisville Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc., started casually on the afternoon of July 11th, 1945, at the home of F. W. Drybrough who had invited a couple of dozen of his friends to listen in on some "Barber Shop" quartet harmony and talk over the possibility of forming a local Chapter. Twice the number of friends came, including Jerry Beeler, president of the Evansville, Indiana, Chapter.

That same afternoon, the Louisville Chapter of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. was born, with 33 charter members. The Chapter has grown by leaps and bounds until the Roster now shows a membership of 256 fully paid up members. The original officers of the Louisville Chapter were:—F. W. Drybrough, President; Rudy E. Fritsch, 1st Vice-President; Chas. Allen Gage, 2nd Vice-President; Jack Byrne, Secretary and Editor of "Harmony Swipes"; John W. Kelly, Treasurer;

Adolph Reutlinger, Director, and Jerry Everbach, Director. Its charter was presented officially on June 10, 1946, by Owen C. Cash, National Founder of the Society, at an impressive ceremony in the Henry Clay Hotel Ball Room.

The charter members of the Louisville Chapter were: O. F. Barnette, Jerry D. Beeler, Joseph E. Burghard, J. J. "Jack" Byrne, John E. Chumbley, Jr., W. M. Cissell, Wm. H. Clowes, Fred H. Crawford, W. P. Curley, P. E. Davis, Lee E. Dentinger, Joseph F. Donaldson, F. W. "Fritz" Drybrough, R. P. "Pat" Dunlevy, Lt. Lloyd Durham (j.g.) (Navy), G. L. Everbach, W. C. "Bud" Fisher, Rudy E. Fritsch, Chas. Allen Gage, Raymond B. Graft, Thomas Graham, Frederick A. Haynes, Marvin V. Hinshaw, Jr., Lt. Robt. T. Ising (U. S. Army), John Whallen Kelly, Louis A. Kretschmer, Jerry McDermott, Carl S. Narz, Adolph Reutlinger, Merle E. Robertson, Neal Watson, Wm. E. Whaley, George C. White.

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THE KENTUCKY TROUBADOURS

Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church, Louisville, staged a minstrel show in the fall of 1938 and the choirs of several Catholic Churches were combed for talent. The up-shot of this was an interlocutor, a double quartet and six end men. The praise of this group was high. The men received much enjoyment from this new venture and decided to stay together and put on more shows, and thus was born the Troubadour Minstrels.

They put on many shows for charity, which took them to cities as far as 50 miles from Louisville. Then the war broke out and one by one the Troubadour Minstrels was dissolved until it boiled down to four men who are now known as the Kentucky Troubadours. For a period of about a year the organization was down to two men; the other two having gone into the armed forces. After the war the Kentucky Troubadour Quartet was reorganized and is now an active Barbershop Quartet, appearing on many SPEBSQSA Quartet Parades in various sections of the country.

Last summer they appeared on a parade of Quartets at Charlevoix, Michigan, some 700 miles from Louisville. This winter they are scheduled to appear on Parades at Terre Haute, Brazil, East Chicago, Evansville, Indiana, and Charleston, Illinois, and have signed for singing dates locally at church affairs, service clubs and banquets.

THE FIRESIDERS

'Way back in '47 (pardon us—1947), a baritone and tenor were seen snooping around, hunting diligently for a bass and lead. Object: A barbershop quartet. The search was successful and a new quartet, The Firesiders, came into being.

The new group decided to enter the regional contest for this area, so they practiced two numbers industriously in order to qualify. An over night change in the rules would have been disastrous for the boys since they knew only two songs. However, The Firesiders, a month old quartet, traveled to Indianapolis in May for the contest. Being modest fellows, they will tell you that they made a credible showing. Actually, they placed seventh among this seasoned, high-ranking competition. If hard work is the secret in measuring the success of a top notch quartet, THE FIRESIDERS are destined to go far in national repute.

THE KENTUCKY CHORDINALS

The Kentucky Chordinals, like most other quartets, had an accidental beginning. It was at a Christmas party at the Pendennis Club that the three girls got together in a very impromptu manner and began to fake some three part harmony.

They were overheard by Louisville's father of barbershopping, F. W. Drybrough, who promptly suggested that they find themselves a bass and get organized in the usual manner. Without doing much about it, the girls were content to do trio work with accompaniment (Mary Alice plays piano) until March, when they were introduced to Bob. From then on they were launched.

Since early summer this group has sung at all of the barbershop chapter functions and at many other social and business conventions and parties. This quartet, like all others, comes from various walks of life, Bob being a sales promotion manager for RCA Victor records; Martha a housewife with a beautiful three-year-old daughter; Mary Alice (who is, incidentally, Martha's twin) a secretary, and Margaret a housewife and vocal teacher.

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Several years ago — the exact number is of no particular importance — two little boys played together on a little dirt street on the then outskirts of Evansville, Indiana. They were Madison Avenue playmates — they spent their time together; went to school together; grew up together.

One of these boys was endowed with much natural musical ability — soon he became proficient on the piano — then, one by one, on virtually every other musical instrument. The other, although lacking the instrumental dexterity of the first, had a profound sense of musical appreciation and understanding and an eager pair of lungs. So, vocally, they were on common ground, musically, and they regularly lifted their juvenile, soprano voices in song, generally with two others, in the quartet style of harmonizing so popular in that day.

Today, F. W. "Fritz" Drybrough is the founder and President of the Louisville, Kentucky, Chapter, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. J. D. "Jerry" Beeler is the founder and President of the Evansville, Indiana, Chapter, Director of its Chorus and an International Vice-President of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. These are the two little boys of the Madison Avenue of years ago. It is doubtful if two more "natural" Barbershoppers exist anywhere. They are still, and have been through the years, the closest friends; and, although the exigencies of business kept "Jerry" in Evansville and brought "Fritz" to Louisville, they see each other every week or so, and are as one in their devotion and enthusiasm for Barbershopping. Jerry is now President of the American Barge Lines and Vice-President and General Manager of the Mead-Johnson Terminal, Evansville. Fritz is President of the United Mercantile Agencies and its associated companies — and both are King-Pin Barbershoppers in their respective communities.



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